

TOP GOW



MARK MILLAR JAE LEE
JOSE VILLARRUBIA JUNE CHUNG

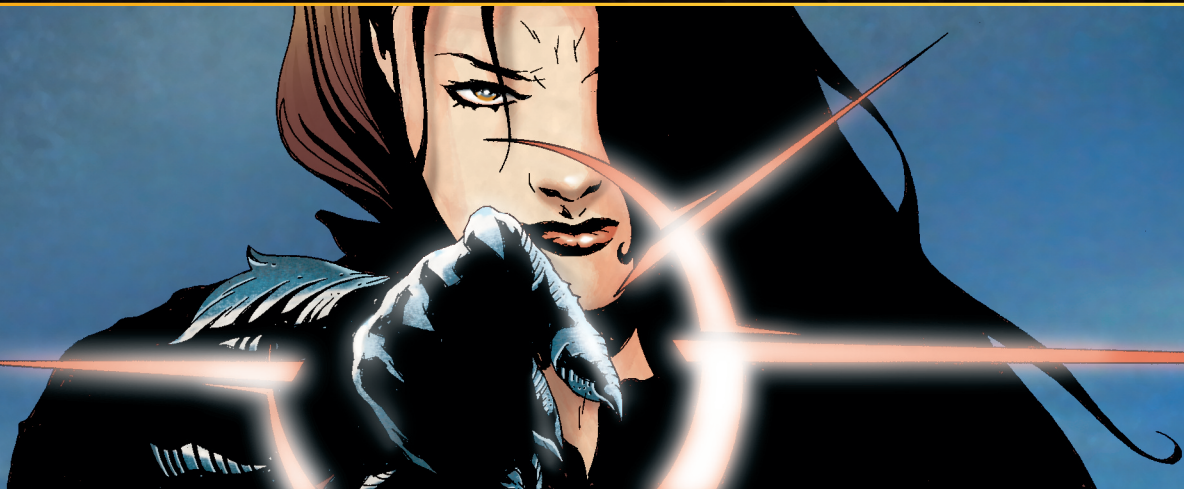
WITCHBLADE™

DEMON #1



WITCHBLADE

DEMON



written by

MARK MILLAR

illustrated by

JAE LEE

colored by

JUNE CHUNG

lettered by

ROBIN SPEHAR/
DREAMER DESIGN

original design & production

JOSH JOHNSON, RICH WENZKE & JEFF ELLER

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ONE WAY

ONE WAY

WALK

NO STOPPING ANYTIME

HOLY SHIT!

Other One

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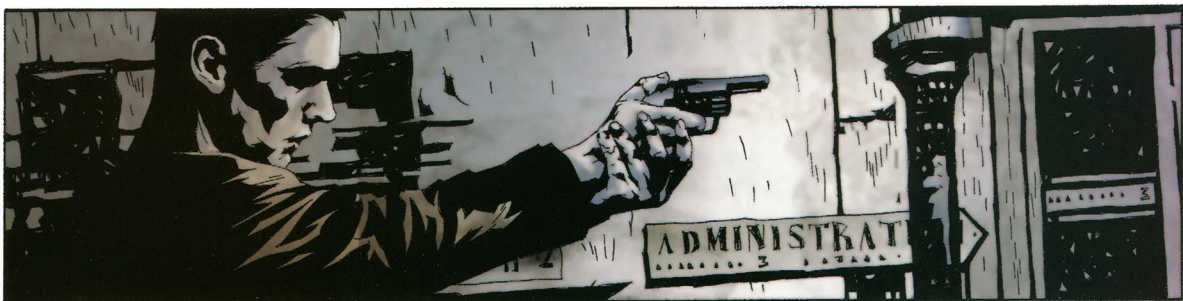
...A RETIRED SECURITY GUARD WHO LIVED ACROSS THE STREET. THE DEMON USED TO READ THE BIBLE TO HIM AS A CHILD BECAUSE THE STUPID, OLD GOAT NEVER BOTHERED TO LEARN FOR HIMSELF.

POLICE DOCTORS SAID THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES HE'D BEEN SMACKED WITH THAT BASEBALL BAT, BUT HIS POOR FAMILY COULDN'T EVEN IDENTIFY HIS FACE FROM HIS ASS IN THE END.



THEY NEVER GOT OVER IT, POOR BASTARDS.

THE OLDEST HAD A BREAKDOWN, THE YOUNGEST SLID INTO ALCOHOLISM, AND THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE WALKED INTO WORK ONE DAY AND SHOT HIS BOSS TEN TIMES IN THE FACE.



EVERY ACTION HAS A CONSEQUENCE, THE DEMON DISCOVERED, AND EVEN AT THIS YOUNG AND TENDER AGE, THAT LESSON WASN'T LOST ON HIM.



SON OF A BITCH!



UH, EXCUSE ME, MISS. YOU NEED A...?

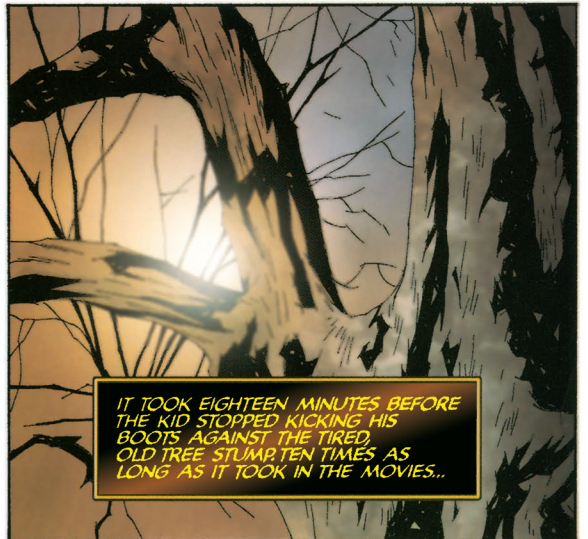
DON'T JUST STAND THERE LIKE YOU'RE ADVERTISING THAT THING, JACKASS--



CALL THE GODDAMN COPS!



HIS NEXT TARGET WAS SELECTED MORE CAREFULLY: ANOTHER BOY AT SCHOOL, MUCH MORE POPULAR THAN HE WAS, THE DEMON LURED HIM INTO THE WOODS WITH HALF A BOTTLE OF HIS MOTHER'S GIN.



IT TOOK EIGHTEEN MINUTES BEFORE THE KID STOPPED KICKING HIS BOOTS AGAINST THE TIRED, OLD TREE STUMP TEN TIMES AS LONG AS IT TOOK IN THE MOVIES...



...BUT THE RESULTS WERE SPECTACULAR.

DEPRESSION. DIVORCE. ALCOHOLISM. SUICIDE...



BY THE TIME THEY BURIED THE HEARTBROKEN FATHER, THE DEMON HAD FOUND HIMSELF WITH SOMETHING OF AN ADDICTION.

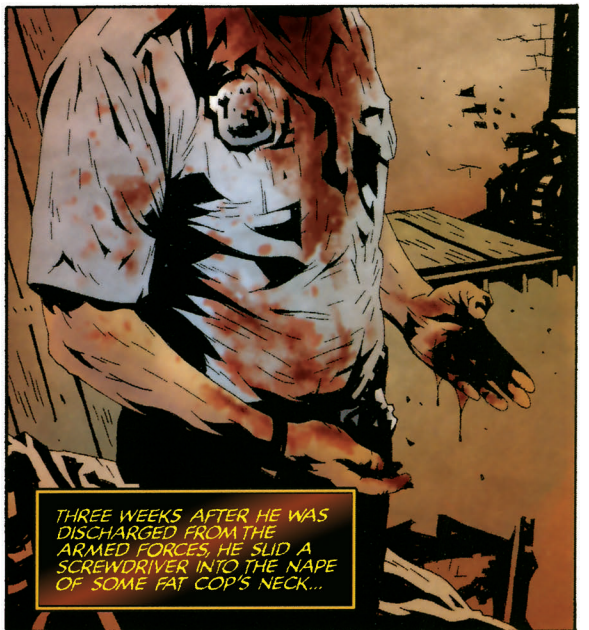


GOD-DAMMIT!

WHERE THE HELL DID THIS OLD FART LEARN TO RUN SO FAST?



THE VERY, VERY OLD AND THE VERY, VERY YOUNG WERE ALL THE DEMON COULD MANAGE BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS, BUT AS HE GOT BIGGER AND STRONGER, SO TOO DID HIS VICTIMS...



THREE WEEKS AFTER HE WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE ARMED FORCES, HE SLID A SCREWDRIVER INTO THE NAPE OF SOME FAT COP'S NECK...



FIVE MONTHS LATER, HE SUFFOCATED A FIREFIGHTER WITH AN OLD WOOLWORTH'S BAG DOWN IN PHILLY...



SIX WEEKS AFTER THAT, HE SHOT A KINDERGARTEN TEACHER RIGHT THROUGH THE HEART WHILE SHE WAS MAKING DINNER FOR HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN...



NOBODY COULD FIGURE OUT WHY HE LEFT THE MAN ALIVE WITH JUST A SHOT THROUGH THE LEG TO SLOW HIM DOWN...



...BUT THAT WAS JUST MISSING THE POINT ENTIRELY.



AW, HELL!



UP THERE!

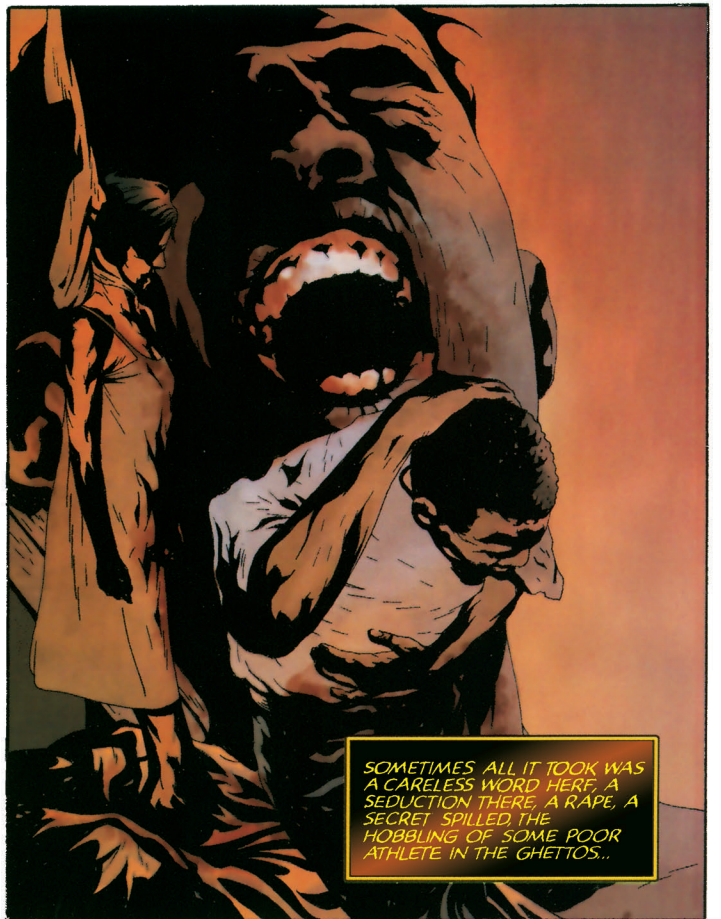
WHAT?



THE FIRE-ESCAPE!



THE KILLING DIDN'T MATTER, YOU SEE. SOMETIMES HE WENT FOR YEARS WITHOUT ACTUALLY CHOKING, STABBING, SHOOTING, OR EVISCERATING A SINGLE PERSON.

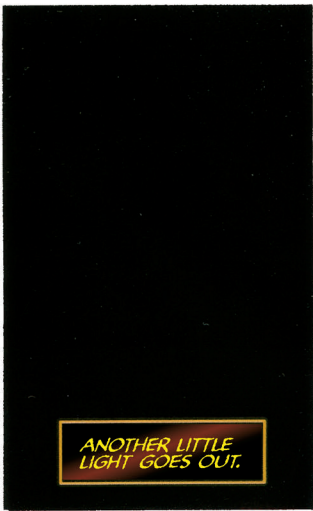


SOMETIMES ALL IT TOOK WAS A CARELESS WORD HERE, A SEDUCTION THERE, A RAPE, A SECRET SPILLED THE HOBBLING OF SOME POOR ATHLETE IN THE GHETTOS...



ALL HE CARED ABOUT WAS RUINING PEOPLE'S LIVES, FOCUSING LIKE A LASER-BEAM ON THE ONE PERSON OUT THERE WHO'D BE MISSED THE MOST, AND THEN--

BLAM!



ANOTHER LITTLE LIGHT GOES OUT.



BUT GOD ONLY PUTS UP WITH SO MUCH DARKNESS IN THE WORLD...

THE BEST ARREST-RECORD IN MY DEPARTMENT? HELL, I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THAT ONE.

PEZZINI. SARA PEZZINI.

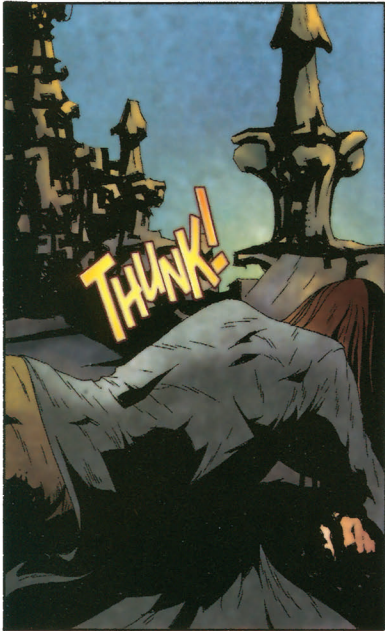


SHE'S THE BEST COP I EVER SAW IN MY WHOLE DAMN LIFE.

...SOMETIMES HE JUST LIKES TO SIT UP AND REMIND EVERYONE HE'S LISTENING EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.



JESUS!



THANK!



DROP YOUR WEAPON, BITCH! NICE AN' SLOW OR, I SWEAR TO GOD, I'M GONNA PUT A BULLET RIGHT BETWEEN THOSE FREAKY EYE-BROWS A' YOURS!



THIS WASN'T ABOUT THE RABBI, WAS IT?

THE RABBI? NAH, HE WAS JUST A BONUS, SARA. YOU WERE THE ONE I WANTED. THE BEST DAMN COP IN NEW YORK CITY, I HEARD. SOMEBODY THEY'RE REALLY GONNA MISS OUT THERE...



OW!



WHO THE HELL ARE YOU *ANYWAY*? YOU THAT PIECE OF CRAP CARETAKER WHO'S ASS I BUSTED VIDEOTAPING THOSE KIDS IN *CENTRAL PARK* LAST SUMMER?

NEVER MET YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE, SWEETHEART.

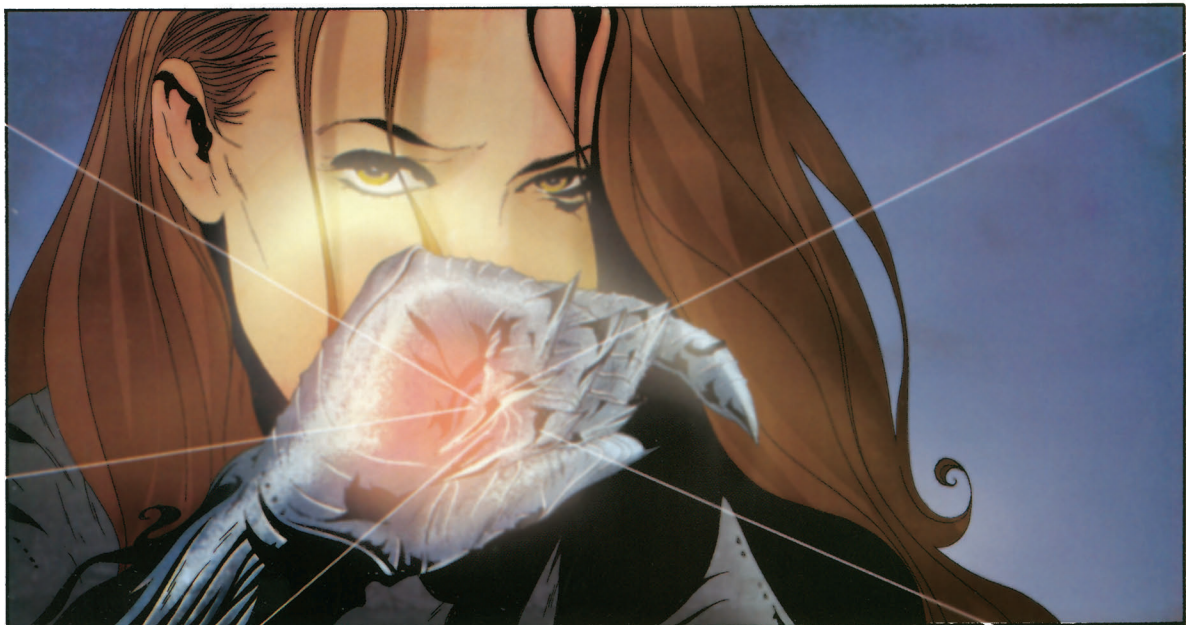


SO WHY THE HELL ARE YOU *DOING THIS*, ASS-WIPE?

SAME REASON I KILLED ALL THOSE *DOCTORS AND NURSES, COPS AND UNION BOSSES, FIREFIGHTERS AND CUTE-FACED, LITTLE KIDS, MISS PEZZINI...*



...BECAUSE IF *HELL CAN BE REAL*, THAT MEANS *HEAVEN'S GONNA BE TOO.*







AGH!



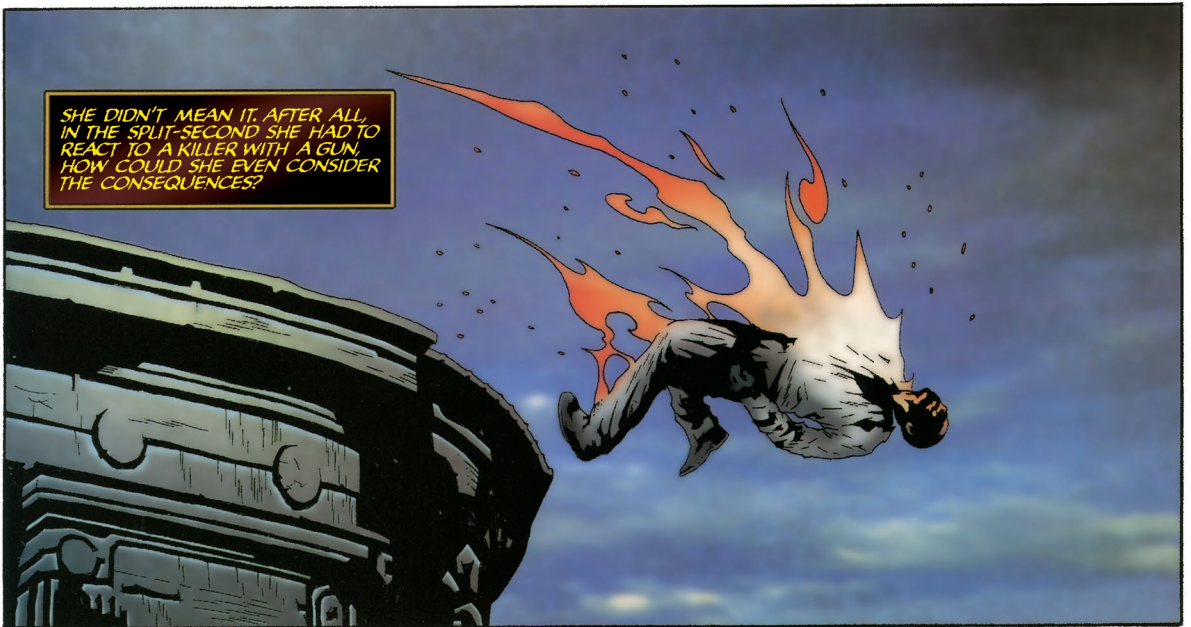
JESUS CHRIST!
HOW DID YOU DO
THAT, YOU STUPID
BITCH? WHAT IN GOD'S
NAME IS THAT
THING?



IT'S CALLED *THE WITCHBLADE*, MORON. SCARIEST WEAPON IN THE WORLD AND HALF THE REASON I MADE ALL THOSE *BUSTS* YOU WERE TOO INTERESTED IN.

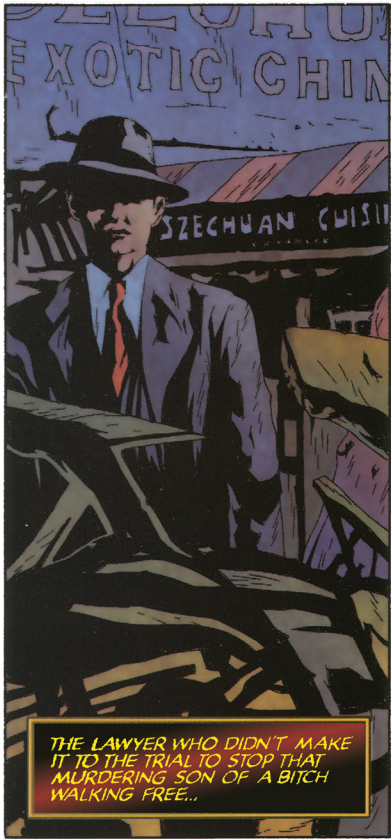


THE WORDS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ARE 'HOW', 'GODDAMN', AND 'IRONIC.'





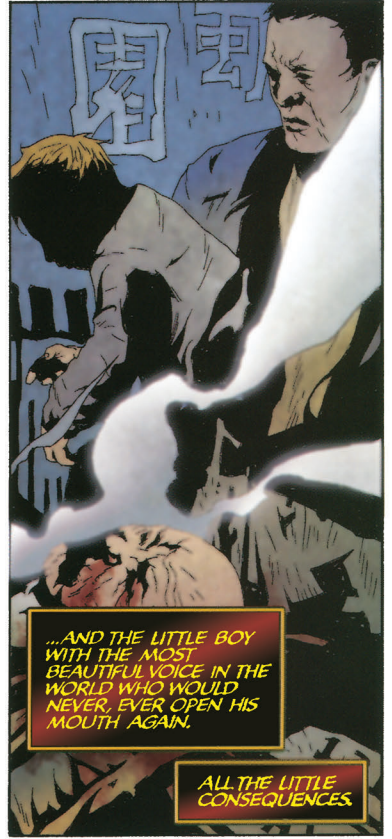
THE CAB-DRIVER WHO'D BE ON VALIUM FOR THE REST OF HIS WORKING LIFE...



THE LAWYER WHO DIDN'T MAKE IT TO THE TRIAL TO STOP THAT MURDERING SON OF A BITCH WALKING FREE...



THE PREGNANT MOTHER WHO LOST THE BEST THING THAT WOULD EVER HAPPEN TO HER...



...AND THE LITTLE BOY WITH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VOICE IN THE WORLD WHO WOULD NEVER, EVER OPEN HIS MOUTH AGAIN.

ALL THE LITTLE CONSEQUENCES.



THE DEMON HAD DIED AND GONE TO HEAVEN AFTER ALL.

END

DYNAMITE

1



WITCHBLADE

DEMON REBORN

